

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-24 (Cancelled)

25. (New) An apparatus for framing or hanging pictures which comprises:

one or more framing portions, wherein each framing portion is made from a flexible material and is provided with a releasable securing means, each framing portion having a first, unsecured, position in which it can be freely moved from a substantially flat conformation to other conformations and a second, secured, position in which it is secured in a three-dimensional shape by said releasable securing means; and

a backing portion for the or each framing portion, comprising a flexible material secured to at least one of the one or more framing portions;

wherein the backing portion is a combined integral packaging means and backing portion and is provided with a releasable securing means, the backing portion having a first position in which it can be freely moved from a substantially flat conformation to other conformations and a second position in which it is releasably secured into a package by its releasable securing means, with the flexible material forming the backing portion for the or each framing portion when it is in the first position and with the flexible material forming a releasably secured tubular package around the or each framing portion for storage and transportation when it is in the second position;

such that when it is desired to store or transport a picture framed in the apparatus, each framing portion may be placed in its first, unsecured position by unsecuring its releasable securing means and unfolding the framing portion so that it is in a substantially flat configuration, and the combined packaging means and backing portion may then be releasably secured in its second position as a tubular package for the framed picture,

and when it is desired to hang a picture framed in the apparatus on a wall, the combined packaging means and backing portion may be placed into its first, unsecured position and then each framing portion may be placed into its second, secured position by folding the

flexible material of each framing portion into the three-dimensional shape and securing it by means of its releasable securing means.

26. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the apparatus comprises one, two or four framing portions.

27. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25 wherein one framing portion is provided and it is of a size such that in use it is placed along the top edge of the picture.

28. (New) The apparatus according to claim 27 wherein the framing portion is of a size such that in use it runs along all or substantially all of the length of the top edge of the picture.

29. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25 wherein two framing portions are provided and they are of a suitable size, such that in use one is placed along the top edge of the picture and the other is placed along the bottom edge of the picture.

30. (New) The apparatus according to claim 29 wherein each framing portion is of a size such that in use it runs along all or substantially all of the length of one of the top or bottom edge of the picture.

31. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25 wherein four framing positions are provided, and they are of a size such that in use one is placed along the top edge of the picture, one is placed along the bottom edge of the picture, one is placed along the left hand edge of the picture and one is placed along the right hand edge of the picture.

32. (New) The apparatus according to claim 31 wherein each framing portion is of a size such that in use it runs along all or substantially all of one of the length of the top, bottom, the left hand and the right hand edge of the picture respectively.

33. (New) The apparatus according to claim 31 wherein in the second position an end portion of each framing portion meets an adjacent end portion of an adjacent framing portion.

34. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the or each framing portion is provided with a releasable securing means comprising a flap and corresponding slit system.

35. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the or each framing portion is of a shape such that when in its second, secured position it is in a regular three-dimensional shape.

36. (New) The apparatus according to claim 35 wherein the or each framing portion is a triangular prism, circular prism or rectangular prism shape when in its second, secured position.

37. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the or each framing portion is provided with score lines to assist the folding of the portion into the three-dimensional shape.

38. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the packaging means is secured in the second position by releasable securing means selected from: a zip, male and female connectors, and a flap and corresponding slit system.

39. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising a picture framed by the or each framing portion, wherein (i) the or each framing portion is attached directly to the picture which it is framing, or (ii) the or each framing portion is attached to the backing portion, with the picture being framed being secured to the backing portion.